

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Film is a visual form of dominant mass communication because they are able to reach many social segments, as well as having the potential to affect the audience. This is because the contents of the message brought by the film can influence and shape society based on a story that is brought behind the film and not vice-versa. Being the content of the film is a record of reality that grows and develops in the community and then project it to go back in the direction the big screen. The film as a representation of reality society where, the film is a portrait of the reality of a society in which the film was made and brought back in shaping reality of a society based on the codes, conventions, and the ideology of culture wide. ( Irawanto, 1999: 14).

Nowadays, there are so many books adapted to movie, but certainly they have changed. The film director intentionally changed the movie because he or she had different point of view. Film is a more sensory experience than reading, beside verbal language, there is also color, movement, and sound. Yet film is also limited: for one thing, there are no time constraints on a novel, while a film must generally compress events into two hours or so. For another, the meaning of a novel is controlled by only one person (the author) while the meaning we get from a film is the result of a collaborative effort by a large number of people. Film also does not allow us the same freedom a novel does to interact with the plot or character by imagining them in our minds. For some viewers, this is often the most frustrating aspect of turning a novel into a film.

The explanation above talk about the adaptation of book to film that usually called ecranisation or film adaptation. The first definition is taken from Oxford dictionary. Ecranisation based on Oxford dictionary has many definitions; (1) the action or process of adapting or being adapted, (2) a thin flexible of plastic or other material coated with light-sensitive emulsion for

exposure in a camera, used to produce photographs or motion pictures, (3) a film, television drama, or stage play that has been adapted from a written work.

Adaptation refers either to the act of adapting, to the state of being adapted, or the result produced by the adaptation of something. In film, adaptation is seen as the process of adapting a book or a play onto screen. A common form of film adaptation is the use of a novel as the basis of a feature film, but film adaptation includes the use of non-fiction, autobiography, comic book, scripture, plays, and even other films. From the earliest days of cinema, adaptation has been nearly as common as the development of original screenplays. Adaptation may certainly be seen as “an interpretation, involving at least one person’s reading of a text, choices about what elements to transfer, and decisions about how to actualize these elements in a medium of image and sound” and have an overt also defining relationship to prior texts, usually revealingly called “sources” (Woolf, 1926:309).

Nicholas Charles Sparks (born December 31, 1965) is an American writer and novelist. He has published eighteen novels and two non-fiction books. Several of his novels have become international bestsellers, and ten of his romantic novels have been adapted to film with multimillion-dollar box office grosses; however, none of the film adaptations have been critically well received. Sparks was born on December 31, 1965, in Omaha, Nebraska, to Patrick Michael Sparks, a professor of business, and Jill Emma Marie Sparks (née Thoene), a homemaker and an optometrist's assistant. He was the middle of three children, with an older brother, Michael Earl "Micah" Sparks (1964–present) and a younger sister, Danielle "Dana" Sparks (1966–2000), who died at the age of 33 from a brain tumor.

While serving in the United States Army Special Forces in 2007, John Tyree (Channing Tatum), a Staff Sergeant, is lying on the ground after being shot multiple times in the neck and body, with his comrades gathered around him. In a voiceover, he recalls a childhood trip to the U.S. Mint and compares

himself to a coin in the United States Military before stating that the last thing he thought of before he blacked out was "you".

In 2001, John is on vacation in Charleston, South Carolina while on leave. He meets Savannah Curtis (Amanda Seyfried), a college student on spring break, when he fetches her purse from the ocean after it gets knocked over the pier. She invites him to a bonfire party that same night where he meets her neighbor, Tim Wheddon (Henry Thomas), and his son Alan (Luke Benward), who has autism. Over the course of two weeks, they go on several dates and fall in love. Savannah also meets John's father (Richard Jenkins), a reclusive man who is obsessed with his coin collection, a fixation that intrigues her but irritates John and causes distance between them.

One afternoon while taking a walk on the beach, Savannah mentions to John that his father, like Alan, may have high-functioning autism. This instantly upsets John who refuses to admit that his father has autism, and storms off. In the parking lot, Savannah's friend Randy (Scott Porter), who also has a crush on her, makes a comment that provokes John to start a fight and, in the process, he accidentally punches Tim. Savannah sees the commotion and stops speaking to him. The following day, John visits Tim to apologize and he offers to give Savannah a message, which he scrawls down on the back of Tim's water bill. Knowing he has to go back soon, she drives to his house and they spend one last day together, parting with, "I'll see you soon then" rather than a goodbye.

John and Savannah continue their relationship through letters. Meanwhile, back home, Savannah spends more and more time with Tim and decides she wants to work with children with autism, and plans to build a farm and stables for horses where they can enjoy the outdoors and animals of the same nature. Over the twelve months they're apart, they expect to build a life together when John leaves the army, but in 2001 when the September 11 attacks occur, he reconsiders and ultimately chooses to re-enlist, causing an argument between them. Over the next two years, the romance goes on through their letters. After a time, John finds himself anxiously awaiting the

next letter, but when it arrives it is a Dear John letter, informing him that she has become engaged to someone else. Upset, John burns all of Savannah's letters.

Despite being wounded and encouraged to return home, John re-enlists. After four more years and many missions, while waiting to receive orders on his unit's next deployment, John is informed that his father had a stroke. When John arrives at the hospital he learns that his father is still alive but in grave condition. John writes a letter to his father, which he reads to him at the hospital; John's voiceover at the beginning of the film was from this letter, in which he told his father that the first thing to cross his mind after he was shot was coins, and the last thing to cross his mind before he lost consciousness was his dad, ultimately the most precious person in his life. Soon afterwards, his father dies.

John goes to visit Savannah and learns that she has married Tim and had to abandon her dream of a riding camp for kids with autism because of Tim's fight against lymphoma. John goes with her to visit Tim in the hospital. Tim tells John that Savannah still loves John and she has never forgotten him. That night, Savannah asks John to stay for dinner. At the table, John asks Savannah why she did not even call him and she says it was because just hearing his voice would make her change her mind. As John goes towards the door, Savannah says "I'll see you soon then". She asks him to reply the same but he replies "Goodbye, Savannah" and leaves.

John decides to sell all of his father's coin collection except the mule that John found, to raise money, which could help Tim in his treatment. Back in the army, John uses the mule as a charm. He receives a letter from Savannah telling him that Tim died after two months and ending with "I'll see you soon, then." Later, John—now a civilian again—coincidentally sees Savannah at a coffee shop and they hug.

This movie is interesting, there are three aspects that make this movie is interesting. The first aspect is *Dear John* is a great movie. Even though a

lot of this story is fictional and based on some fact, the movie is very in depth, with a lot of detail.

The second aspect, *Dear John* is beautiful story. There are lesson learned by John and Savannah's love story. An important lesson that John and Savannah sacrificed for their relationship that it must be broken.

The third aspect is the difference responses among all of people in the world about movie version of Nicholas Sparks' *Dear John*. In this research, the researcher uses 181 data as the reader responses. Those data are taken from website that divided into three classes. The first class is male reader response. The second is female reader response, and the last is unidentified reader response. The last class is for whom cannot be identified the gender by the name. The amount of the male reader response is 96, the female reader response is 59, and the unidentified reader response is 26. Those readers are from different countries, such as Canada, Australia, USA, Brazil, UK, Germany, England, Singapore, and many more that will be completely mentioned in the analysis chapter. The responses are not merely positive but also negative. The example of the positive one is taken from Geff from Amerika who told that he loves this movie because the story and the characteristics of the characters. The negative response taken from Gracanin from Denmark who does not love happy ending story. As mentioned before, the completely responses will be drawn in the analysis chapter. Many people in the world have many and different opinion about *Dear John* movie version. Some of them say not like, and the others say like the movie. *Dear John* movie tell the happy ending story between John and Savannah, but people who had read the novel first say that they feel disappointed about the movie version.

Based on this reason, the researcher intends to conduct a study in unsatisfactory responses because there are similarities and differences people's opinion in movie version of Nicholas Sparks' *Dear John*. Particularly, in the novel and movie version, there is difference ending story that show many reason people like or not like the movie version of Nicholas

Sparks' *Dear John*. Thus, the writer wants to analyze it by comparing the people responses. It is way the writer takes the title **UNSATISFACTORY ECRANISATION OF LASSE HALLSTROM'S *DEAR JOHN* NOVEL (2006): A READER RESPONSE ANALYSIS.**

## **B. Problem Statement**

The problem statements of this research are:

1. What are the dominant issues responded by reviewers in *Dear John* movie?
2. How is the background of reviewers in *Dear John* movie?
3. Why do the reviewers like and dislike *Dear John* movie?
4. How is the comparison between *Dear John* novel and movie version?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this research are follows:

1. To identify the dominant issues responded by reviewers in *Dear John* movie.
2. To describe the background of reviewers response in *Dear John* movie.
3. To explain the reason why reviewers like and don't like *Dear John* movie.
4. To describe the comparison between *Dear John* novel and movie version.

## **D. Limitation of the Study**

In analyzing the movie version response of Nicholas Sparks' *Dear John*, the writer needs to limit the study. The limitation is on the responses of *Dear John* movie.

## **E. Benefit of the Study**

There are some benefits expected from this study, such as:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected contribute to the larger body of knowledge particularly literary devices to enrich the knowledge and experience of the

writer and other students at UMS or other Universities related to literary studies.

## 2. Practically Benefit

The researcher hopes that this research will give more information and get deeper understanding about the movie which uses reader response theory.

## **F. Paper Organization**

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is presenting introduction, which consists of background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, the benefit of the study, and paper organization. Chapter II is literature review; it describes underlying theory, previous studies, and novelty. Chapter III is research method; it contains type of research, object of the study, type of data and data source, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis. Chapter IV is the analysis. Chapter V is the last chapter of this research paper of this research that consists of conclusion and suggestion.